



The Regional Biomass Energy Program (RBEP) promotes increased production and use of bioenergy resources, and helps advance the use of renewable biomass feedstocks and technologies. Historically, the RBEP leverages two nonfederal dollars for every federal dollar it administers.

Benefits of Ethanol Workshops

- **Reach key public officials and industry leaders with up-to-date, targeted information**
- **Bring together diverse interests to form an organized, unified effort**
- **Promote ethanol production incentive legislation that meets both DOE and state goals**
- **Provide a forum to address state and local concerns and overcome objections**
- **Facilitate intergroup communications and partnerships**

“The RBEP Ethanol Workshop was the fire that lit the fuse to commissioning an ethanol plant prefeasibility study.”

Mike Wagner, Executive Director
Ohio Corn Growers Association



**U.S. Department
of Energy
Regional Biomass
Energy Program**

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ANOTHER RBEP SUCCESS: Ethanol workshops that really work

CHALLENGE

Biomass is the only *renewable* source of liquid fuels, which are so vital to our nation's transportation and commerce. Bio-based fuel is domestically produced, which helps increase energy security and reduce trade deficits. Vehicle engines running on bio-based fuels also produce fewer harmful emissions.

One of the chief advantages of clean bio-based fuels such as ethanol is that they can be produced from non-food chain feedstocks, such as trees, grasses and other plant materials with high cellulose content. However, developing the technologies and facilities to cost-effectively produce ethanol from cellulosic feedstocks and creating a strong market demand for ethanol requires broad support from government officials.

RBEP SOLUTION

The U.S. Department of Energy's Regional Biomass Energy Program (RBEP) funded a series of one-day, state-



level ethanol workshops designed to educate and inspire key public officials and the general public about the benefits of using ethanol as a transportation fuel. The ultimate goal of the ethanol workshops and their associated follow-up activities is paving the way at the state level for producing ethanol from cellulosic feedstocks.

State senators and representatives and their staffs have actively participated in many instances and all have praised the workshops as productive and time well spent. Equally important has been the consistent attendance of heads of state agencies and their staffs for agriculture, energy, business development, and other key departments.

Partners

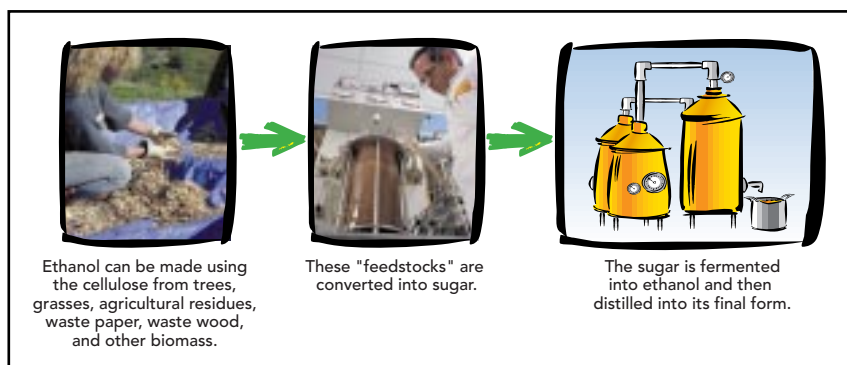
U.S. Department of Energy
Regional Biomass Energy Program

BBI International

Individual State Biomass
Energy Programs



The workshops educate government and industry leaders about ethanol production and about ethanol's economic and environmental benefits.



The workshops also present details of other states' successful ethanol development programs. These presentations allow officials to obtain information directly from the administrators of the successful state programs, including how the programs were established and their economic benefits.

RESULTS

In states where workshops have been held, participants have gone on to work toward the following:

- Legislation in **Wisconsin** establishing a 20-cents-a-gallon subsidy for ethanol production. Subsequently, four plants have applied to begin producing ethanol under the program.
- Creation of a public/private sector working group in **Michigan**, whose objective is to draft strategies and goals for statewide ethanol marketing and education. Due in part to the group's efforts, the state legislature passed a \$5 million incentive for the first ethanol plant in the state.
- Discussion of a project to construct a \$250 million facility in **Alabama** to process municipal solid waste into ethanol.
- Commissioning of an ethanol plant prefeasibility study in **Ohio**. Three town meetings are planned to present the results on the possibility of building multiple ethanol plants across the state.

BENEFITS

The workshops, in part, present details of other states' successful ethanol development programs. These presentations allow state and local officials to learn directly from the administrators of the successful state programs, including how the programs were established and their economic benefits. The conclusion of each workshop is designed to facilitate follow-up activities.

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